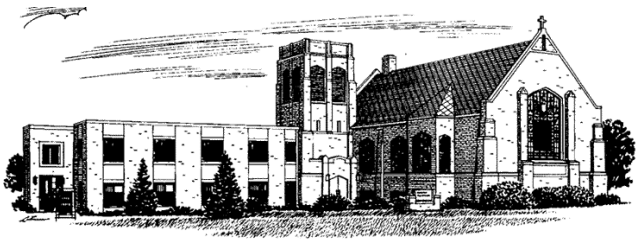

SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

March 2019

Instructions for living a life:
Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.

Mary Oliver
"Sometimes," *Devotions*, p. 104

Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it. How often is that what we do? For me, it is helpful at times to be reminded to do just that – to stop and ask, "What are the details of what surrounds me – perhaps the beauty of nature, the wonder of a child, the miraculous nature of how our bodies heal?"

During the coming Lenten season, at our mid-week worship, poet Mary Oliver will help us do just that. Through her poetry, reflective questions, and Scripture, we will take time to pay attention, be astonished, and tell about it. Each evening will include Holden Evening Prayer, a favorite of the Saron community. Please join me for this mid-week opportunity for food, fellowship, and meditation this Lenten season.

Pastor Joan

ASH WEDNESDAY
March 6, 2019
12:15 & 7:00 PM

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

The Poetry of Lent
featuring works by Mary Oliver
Wednesday Evenings
March 13, 20, 27, April 3 & 10
Soup Supper 6:00 PM
Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 PM

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
tbd, Financial Secretary
Emily Gaul, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Many of you were able to see Project Fortify and Fly's video, featuring our choir, youth, and Saron leaders speaking of the ministry and vision of Saron. If you would like to watch the video again, or have a friend watch it, the link can be found at https://youtu.be/d1UGzGbPXLg or you can search on "Fortify & Fly" in YouTube.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – **California**

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Financial Secretary: tbd
Call for office for more information
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in March 2019

March 1 - Michael Hoodlebrink
4 – Krin Jurgensen
Caleb Pudell
8 – Austin Kamala
9 – Colbe Pudell
10 - Brad Frey
12 - Susan Rood
14 - Ruth Stelling
17 – Mia Bradley
18 – Peter Johnson
Constance Sleter
19 - Karleann Stankiewicz
Alexander Tzouanakis
20 – Nicole (de la Foret) Rick
21 - Kaitlin (Huff) Hooper
22 – Janet Oleson
25 - Jim Nicholas
26 - Susan Bailey
27 - Eloise Moely
Shelly Stankiewicz
28 - Matthew Gacek
Zachary Ark

Happy Anniversary Wishes to the following Members in March 2019

March 2 - Tom and Janet Taylor
11 - Richard and Marlene Schalon

For additions or corrections, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

THANK YOU!

I have been truly overwhelmed at the many well wishes and expressions of kindness given to me and my family during and after my recent hospitalization and surgery. Your prayers, thoughts, cards, and so much more have enveloped me with your love and God's love. I am deeply grateful for each one of you. You have brightened my day and offered healing. Thanks to all who have unexpectedly covered for me in various ways and to Bishop Satterlee, Pastor Foster, and Pastor Kinker for their Sunday supply and to the Bishop, as well as Pastors Shearier, Dehnke, Hartten, Schmidt and Mohn for their visits.

FORTIFY & fly

Are you excited for the upcoming changes to Saron but also feeling a tiny bit (or more) of anxiety at what those changes might be? Admit it, you are a little terrified you are going to walk into the sanctuary one Sunday next month and find 20 foot media screens have been installed and the hymnals are just gone. Some people are confused about what exactly we pledged our money towards and when these upgrades are going to take place. It feels like there isn't a specific plan yet for how and

when each dollar will be spent. That's because the time to make that plan hadn't arrived until now. In order to avoid wasting volunteer and vendor time, we decided to wait until we knew how much we collected in pledges and when, approximately, the money would be donated. It was safe to make that decision because we knew all the Fortify & Fly donations that were made at the end of 2018 and those that will come in during 2019 would be needed for the building projects and our tithe to Lutheran Disaster Response and the Readiness Center in Benton Harbor.

The building projects will start in priority order as soon as the weather allows and continue as we have funds to pay for them. That gives us this year to work on fleshing out some specific projects in our other focus areas, gather quotes and create a potential schedule. Keep in mind that we gave the option of making weekly payments towards pledges for the next three years which means we must anticipate collecting money towards Fortify & Fly until the end of December 2021. Since we are not planning to spend money we don't actually have, some projects will need to wait until early 2022 for implementation. Getting vendor quotes in 2019 for a project that far out is simply not practical so we must accept a certain level of unknown will exist for a long while to come. In summary, Church Council and the committees will guide spending, timing, and the scope of the projects with congregation input so we must be patient and trust in our elected church leaders to work in our best interest, keep us informed, and give us opportunities to be involved. And to be absolutely clear, 20 foot media screens are not currently on any potential plan!

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday, March 3 –
Transfiguration of Our Lord
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-37-43a

Wednesday, March 6
Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, March 10 –
First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, March 17
Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17--4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, March 24
Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 31
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Nursery News

As we have people go on vacation or have a busy time in their lives and are unable to help us for a few weeks, it's good to have others step up so that we can keep everyone to an every other month rotation. Our paid child care provider is the constant for our little ones. We welcome help for either service but really could use more help during the 8:30 am service. Please let Marilyn Lucy know of your willingness.

PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2019 flower calendar is posted. Cost: $25.00/vase. This is an opportunity for you to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. The church orders the flowers (unless you indicate otherwise) and you can take the flowers home after 2nd service.

Learning

book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

This group enjoys Bible study, conversation, and sharing a meal together. We typically meet on the third Sunday of each month, rotating among the homes of those participating. Please call the Kynasts (269-921-3816 for Mary, 269-921-2786 for Bob) if you'd like more information.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday morning study on the psalms will meet through February 28, take a break during Lent as we have mid-week worship and soup suppers, and then begin again after Easter. Watch for details.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study will not meet during Lent. The last meeting will be February 26 and studies will resume again on April 23.

The Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship (something to eat and something to drink). We know everyone is busy so Bible study is a "come as you can" group. All men are invited to join in.

For more information call or text Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or bobkynast@gmail.com or Sid at 312-209-1301 or sidmohn@gmail.com.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

On Saturday, March 2, 2019 Saron Men's Monthly Devotion and Breakfast group will meet at the Galley Grill on Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville at 9:00 am. The Galley Grill is on the Super 8 Motel property at 4296 Red Arrow Highway just north of the Tyler Honda car dealership. We welcome new participants!

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

On March 3rd, 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs lounge, we again meet to discuss an oldie but goodie by the insightful, humorous author, Elinor Lipman. "Then She Found Me" explores issues of adoption, family and mature romance. April Epner is a thirty something high school Latin teacher whose life is changed in unexpected ways when her famous, gregarious (think Joan Rivers/Bette Midler/Judge Judy) biological mother "finds her". So much to discuss.

Coming up on April 7th is a book you won't want to miss. "Young Jane Young", by Gabrielle Zevin, is "the story of five women and the scandal that binds them together". (Amazon) It is a book well suited to the times we live in. It causes us to examine some long held ideas, perceptions and to see others as human beings with many layers. There's a lot to consider with this novel.

Please join us. A good discussion is guaranteed. Questions? Call Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com

"I read a book one day and my whole life was changed". (Orthan Pamuk)

Women of the ELCA.

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, after the Lenten Soup Supper and worship service to work on a service project. Gift bags will be assembled for Saron's homebound and nursing home/assisted living members. Everyone should bring a small container of hand lotion and an Easter card.

WOMEN OF SARON AND GUESTS.
You are invited to our annual Women's Retreat to be held on Saturday April 27, 2019 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the home of Linda Pater. This day provides us time to get to know each other better and learn more about God's message to us. There is a $10.00 charge to cover expenses for our speaker, and breakfast and lunch. A sign up sheet will be placed in the Narthex in March. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Linda Pater. As always, we are looking forward to this event and hope that you will join us.

Church Women United

World Day of Prayer
Date: March 1, 2019
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Mediator Episcopal Church
14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert
Theme: All God's Creation is Very Good!

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving
Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS
Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement. Thanks!
Matt Bradley, treasurer

Are you a Thrivent member?
If so, you have an opportunity to help with the funding of a work project, as coordinated through our Outreach or Facilities teams. Please let Janet Oleson or Pastor know if you are a member, have interest or questions.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments
Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN
On a cold January 24th 110 people were served a ham dinner prepared by Saron volunteers Kathy Cowall, Pastor Joan, Dave & Kathie Bradley, and Lindsay Gaspari. It was wonderful to have two of Lindsay's students from Brookview Montessori School helping out! Anyone 12 years and older is welcome to help. Also thanks to our cookie bakers Keith Stevens & the Confirmation Class.

Large cans of fruit, for use at the Soup Kitchen, are always needed. Saron is responsible for preparing and serving a meal on the 4th Thursday of the month. If you would like to olunteer to bake cookies or help serve please contact Kathie Bradley at 269/921-4665

BLOOD DRIVE

If you received a call about donating, you know there was a mixup for a little while with our scheduled blood drives. But it has been fixed and our first blood drive for the year is Monday, April 29. Our next drive is June 24 so that keeps you busy with us for the first half of the year. The hours are different than in the past; they will be from 3:00 – 7:00 PM (instead of 2-6) so maybe that will make a difference for someone. Please consider donating at our drive. Blood Fact: three units is the amount of the average red blood cell transfusion. A regular donation gives one unit.

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

A task force at Saron has been looking at issues of inclusivity and how to best live into our mission of "joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!" Serving on the task force are Kati and Nick Hooper, Laurel Gacek, Laura Hicks, Sid Mohn, and Pastor. Contact any of these folks if you would like to know more.

Interfaith Action
SW Michigan Peace & Justice Collaborative

Check out Interfaith Action's website!
https://swmichinterfaith.org/

Interfaith Action Announces 2nd Immigration Event: March 7th 6:30 pm

A unique opportunity is available to learn about the different pathways available to enter the US - along with the opportunities and the obstacles. On THURSDAY, MARCH 7th - 6:30 pm, an immigration simulation program will be facilitated by the Christian Reformed Church's North American Office based in Grand Rapids.

The program will be held at The Rose Center, 301 Wayne Street (corner of Pleasant Street). Saint Joseph.

This is an exciting opportunity to learn about immigration through your own simulated experience followed by a time for discussion.

MARCH'S MISSION MOMENT

Each month we will be featuring a ministry of Saron – either a direct ministry, or one that is ours as a member of the ELCA.

Saron's Work Against Human Trafficking

What is human trafficking?

♣ Human trafficking is a crime. It is a modern-day form of slavery in which victims are compelled, defrauded or coerced into forced labor, child soldiery or commercial sex against their will.

Who are the victims?

♣ Victims may be children or adults, female or male, educated or illiterate, rich or poor, citizens or not, urban or rural – or anywhere in between. The only common element is that people caught in trafficking have been stripped of their freedom.

Saron is a part of the Southwest Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force. Its description, from the website, states the task force is "a collaboration of law enforcement, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations and concerned citizens. Our mission is to educate and bring awareness to the communities of Southwestern Michigan about human trafficking and to further develop a plan for a victim-centered approach using a multidisciplinary team."

Check the task force's website for resources, warning signs, and what you can do.

COMPANION SYNOD NEWS

If you would like to learn more about our companion synod – the Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras – and the situation there, please find information posted on the kiosk.

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP VIDEO

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. Portions of our worship are being recorded for the purpose of sharing with those who are not able to attend worship, particularly those who are home bound. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear on a video, please contact Aaron Becker (at the camera) or Pastor.

Facilities

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED

Please save your used ink cartridges as we receive rebates to be used on office supplies. There is a collection box in the Narthex. Thank you.

Council News

Saron Church Council Officers

The following persons were elected as officers of Saron congregation at the council's recent meeting. They are as follows:

Scott Gaspari, president
Joe Ulrey, vice-president
Matt Bradley, treasurer
Karen Johnson, secretary

A full list of liaison responsibilities will be listed in next month's newsletter. Congratulations to all!

Attendance Record	
01/27/2019	*68*
02/03/2019	*90*
02/10/2019	*63*
02/17/2019	*98*

Bishop Satterlee leads worship at Saron.

Our youth and sponsors enjoy an afternoon at the Escape Room.

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

March 2019

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Saron 2019
March Volunteer Schedule

	March 3 Transfiguration of our Lord		***March 10 First Sunday in Lent***		***March 17 Second Sunday in Lent***		***March 24 Third Sunday in Lent***		***March 31 Fourth Sunday in Lent***	
	8:30	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	***8:30***	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***
Assisting minister	Eric Standen	Bob Deaton	Marilyn Frey	Bob Kynast	Wendy King	Tyler Cook	Sue Rood	Colleen Lundgren	Pauline Ngonyani	Connie Slater
Reader/ Comm. Asst.	Susan Harris	Judi Huff	Wendy King	Don Hafer	Sally Schmuhl	Dan Fortenbacher	Steve Bell	Karen Johnson	Eric Standen	Darlene Kiessel
Ushers	Dave & Sue Bailey	John Olson & Krin Jurgensen	Eric & Deb Standen	Jerry and Ruth Stelling	Fran Richards & Elizabeth Kunkel	Bob and Mary Kynast	Keith Stevens & Jim Manore	Matt Bradley & Tyler Cook	Pat Breyen & Rebecca Sebrechts	Scott & Lindsay Gaspari
Acolyte	Troy & Eric Burrow	Meredith Gacek	Brooke Henderson	Mia & Alaina Bradley	Brandon & Eric Burrow	Molly Becker	Jenna Henderson	Grant Gacek	Open	Mia & Alaina Bradley
Nursery 1st	Marilyn Lucy	Frieda Williams	Jenna Henderson	Lindsay Gaspari	Deb Standen	Ruth Stelling	Marilyn Frey	Mary Kynast	Allison Rood	Meredith Gacek
Nursery 2nd	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul
Bldg. close		Brad and Marilyn Frey		Jerry and Ruth Stelling		Bob and Mary Kynast		Bob Hopkins	Dennis & Colleen Lundgren	
Snacks										
Flowers	OPEN		OPEN		Dave & KathieBradley		Matt Gacek B'd 28th Mar			

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. SCS Classes					**1** CWU World Day of Prayer 1:00 p.m. First Congregational UC	2 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast Galley Grill,
3 *Worship/Learning Schedule Above* 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Discussion Group	**4** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**5**	**6** **Ash Wed.** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 12:15pm & 7:00 pm Worship with Communion & Ashes	**7** 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**8**	9 Change your clocks forward before retiring in the evening
10 *Worship/Learning Schedule Above* Youth Group Meeting *Daylight Savings Time Starts*	**11** Newsletter Articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**12** 7:00 p.m. Support Committee Meeting	**13** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Worship Deborah Circle	**14** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**15**	16
17 *Worship/Learning Schedule Above*	**18** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	**19** 4:00 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron	**20** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Worship	**21** 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**22**	23
24 *Worship/Learning Schedule Above*	**25** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**26**	**27** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Worship	**28** 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**29**	30
31 *Worship/Learning*						